

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) An electrical connector comprising:
a connector body portion comprising at least one electrical contact and a groove disposed at least partially around said contact;
a cover pivotally connected to said body portion, said cover comprising a sealing wall extending from a surface adjacent said body portion; and
a biasing member biasing said cover toward a closed configuration relative to said body portion;
wherein when said cover is in said closed configuration said sealing wall is disposed at least partially in said groove.

Claim 2 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said groove disposed at least partially around said contact comprises a first and a second upstanding wall spaced from one another.

Claim 3 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 1, further comprising a seal disposed between said cover and said connector body.

Claim 4 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 3, wherein said seal is disposed at least partially between said groove and said sealing wall.

Claim 5 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said biasing member comprises a spring acting between said cover and said connector body.

Claim 6 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 1 further comprising an elastomeric block sized to be received in an opening in said connector body

Claim 7 (new) An electrical connector comprising:
a first connector portion and a second connector portion;
a wiring bus electrically coupling at least one electrical contact of said first connector portion with at least one electrical contact of said second connector portion, said wiring bus disposed on at least two levels.

Claim 8 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein said first connector portion comprises a plurality of electrical contacts and said second connector portion comprises fewer electrical contacts than said first connector portion.

Claim 9 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein said at least one electrical contact of said first connector portion comprises a first terminal and said at least one electrical contact of said second connector portion comprises a second terminal, said wiring bus comprising said first terminal coupled to said second terminal.

Claim 10 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 9 wherein said first terminal is mechanically and electrically coupled to said second terminal.

Claim 11 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 10 wherein said first terminal comprises an opening having at least one tab extending into said opening and at least a portion of said second terminal is adapted to be received in said opening, whereby said first terminal is mechanically and electrically coupled to said second terminal.

Claim 12 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein said first connector portion comprises a seven-way connector interface and said second connector portion comprises a four-way connector interface, wherein said first and second connector portions are coupled to a wiring harness via said wiring bus.

Claim 13 (new) An electrical connector comprising:
a connector body;
a tubular female electrical contact, at least a portion of said contact extending upwardly from said connector body; and
a wall extending at least partially around electrical contact.

Claim 14 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 13 comprising a plurality of female electrical contacts, at least a portion of each of said plurality of contacts extending upwardly from said connector body, and each of said plurality of contacts having a

wall extending at least partially around each of said plurality of contacts, said walls comprising a web extending between walls of adjacent contacts and at least one axially extending slot in at least one of said walls.

Claim 15 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said walls comprises two axially extending slots, said slots being arranged generally orthogonal to said web.

Claim 16 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 13, wherein said tubular female electrical contact comprises a tube having a circular cross-section.

Claim 17 (new) An electrical connector comprising:
a body including a first connector portion and a second connector portion;
a first cover pivotally coupled to said body adjacent said first connector portion;
a second cover pivotally coupled to said body adjacent said second connector portion;
a biasing element biasing said first cover toward a closed position relative to said first connector portion and biasing said second cover toward a closed position relative to said second connector portion such that moving said first cover toward an opened position increases the bias of said toward a closed position.

Claim 18 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 17, wherein said biasing element comprises a spring having a first portion applying a biasing force to said first cover and a second portion applying a biasing force to said second cover.

Claim 19 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 18, wherein said spring comprises a torsion spring and said first portion comprises a generally central loop of said torsion spring and said second portion comprises at least one end of said torsion spring.

Claim 20 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 17, wherein said first and second cover are pivotally coupled about a common axis.

Claim 21 (new) An electrical connector comprising:
a body comprising a snap-fit feature extending from said body, said snap-fit comprising a protrusion; and
a locking tab comprising at least one support leg and a snap feature engageable with said body to retain said support leg between said snap-fit feature and said body, thereby resisting deflection of said snap-fit feature.

Claim 22 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 21, wherein said protrusion comprises a stepped engaging face.

Claim 23 (new) An electrical connector according to claim 21, wherein said locking tab comprises a snap feature having a first barb engageable with said body to retain said snap feature to said body and a second barb engageable with said body to retain said support leg between said snap-fit feature and said body, thereby resisting deflection of said snap-fit feature.

Claim 24 (new) An electrical contact comprising:

a tubular member comprising a longitudinal slit about at least a portion of said member;
and
a resiliently expandable collar disposed around said tubular member adjacent an end of
said tubular member.

Claim 25 (new) An electrical contact according to claim 24, wherein said collar
comprises a cylindrical member comprising an axial slit in said member.

Claim 26 (new) An electrical contact according to claim 24, wherein said collar
comprises a cylindrical member comprising a helical slit in said member.

Claim 27 (new) A wiring bus comprising:
a first terminal comprising an aperture and at least one spring finger projecting into said
aperture;
a second terminal sized to be at least partially received in said aperture by deforming said
spring finger.

Claim 28 (new) A wiring bus according to claim 27, wherein said first terminal is
mechanically coupled to a connector body.

Claim 29 (new) A wiring bus according to claim 27, wherein said first terminal comprises three spring fingers projecting into said aperture, at least two of said spring fingers disposed on opposed sides of said aperture.

Claim 30 (new) A wiring bus according to claim 27, wherein said first terminal comprises two spring fingers projecting from opposed sides of said aperture.

Claim 31 (new) A wiring bus according to claim 30, wherein said aperture and spring fingers are formed by an S-curve slit in said first terminal.

Claim 32 (new) A wiring bus according to claim 30, wherein said aperture and spring fingers are formed by a reverse S-curve slit in said first terminal.

Claim 33 (new) A method of forming a wiring bus comprising;
providing a first terminal comprising an aperture and at least one spring finger projecting into said aperture;
providing a second terminal sized to be received in said aperture;
inserting at least a portion of said second terminal into said aperture, thereby deforming said at least one spring finger to electrically couple said first and second terminals.

Claim 34 (new) A method according to claim 33, wherein said first terminal is insert molded with a connector body.

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Claim 35 (new) A method according to claim 34, further comprising mechanically retaining said second terminal to said connector body.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 22. This sheet replaces the original sheet including FIG. 22. In FIG. 22 previously omitted reference numeral 514 has been added.

Additionally, FIG. 22 has been amended to separately designate the three individual views as FIG. 22a, FIG. 22b, and FIG. 22c consistent with the description of the drawings in the specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet